through a 2-tier decentralized set up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. The implementation of the scheme is monitored at the national level by a National level Steering Committee and at the State level by State leval coordination Committee. In addition, independent evaluations of the FDA projects are commissioned both at the FDA level and the Government of India level.

(b) to (d) The National Level Steering Committee met on 15.9.2004 and 14.11.2005 to monitor the progress of NAP in all States including Andhra Pradesh. In addition, 58 First Concurrent Evalution studies have been commissioned for FDA projects in the country, including 3 FDA projects in Andhra Pradesh during 2004-05. So far Evaluation reports in respect of 44 projects, including 2 for Andhra Pradesh have been received. The Evaluation reports of FDA projects of Andhra Pradesh indicate that the implementation of NAP is satisfactory in that State.

(e) Report of the Evaluation studies are sent to the State Forest Department for follow-up action for improving implementation of FDA projects. Interactive meetings of the evaluators and FDA personnel of the State Forest Departments have been organized during 2004 and 2005 wherein the FDA projects of Andhra Pradesh were also discussed.

National Environment Policy

2643. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG:
SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Environment Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps Government propose to take for implementation of the said scheme in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has prepared a draft National Environment Policy (NEP).

(b) The draft NEP is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution. It recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. The NEP is also intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities. It briefly describes key environmental challanges currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of environment policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indication of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review.

(c) On its finalization, the NEP will be translated into a set of implementable Action Plan(s) with the participation of different stakeholders.

Agri-Business Package

2644. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to formulate guidelines for a new integrated agri-business package which will include both ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook food items;

(b) whether such a plan was announced when the Minister was speaking on a round table discussion on the Food Safety and Standards Bill organized by CII in the capital in September, 2005;

(c) whether the Cabinet has also considered agri-business package and vision document and the National Food Processing Policy; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating an Integrated Strategy for promotion Agri-business including Vision and Action Plan for the food processing sector in consultation with